

# ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT TITLE I PROGRAM

## A. Lynch Bustin Elementary SRU Elementary Harlan Rowe Middle School

December 1965, the federal government passed the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** that governs the country's K-12 public education policy. This was passed as a part of US President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" and has been the most far reaching federal legislation affecting education ever passed by the United States Congress. The original goal of the law, which remains today, was to improve educational equity for students from lower-income families by providing federal funds to school districts with a high percentage of students from low-income families.

In 2002, Title I became part of the **No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)**. In this act **NCLB** stresses the use of standards and benchmarks to monitor the progress of all students. Every school that receives Title I funding is required to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) meaning that most students are reaching the benchmarks for their grade level. This was determined by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) that was given to all students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

Title I states that it gives priority to schools that are in obvious need of funds, low-achieving schools, and schools that demonstrate a commitment to improving their education standards and test scores. *The amount of funds that school district receives is based on their poverty, which is determined by the number of students that receive a free or reduced lunch.* In the Athens Area School District we have three schools that qualify for Title I funding - A. Lynch Bustin Elementary School, SRU Elementary School and Harlan Rowe Middle School. All three schools are designated as "school wide program" Title I schools. This means that ALL students and teachers are considered to be part of the Title I program, whether they receive extra intervention or not. This makes all students eligible to use and receive materials purchased through the Title I budget. Title I Intervention Teachers are reading specialists and our paraprofessionals are highly qualified aides.

All three buildings are involved in the RTII process (Response to Intervention and Instruction). This process includes screening students in Reading three times a year (fall, winter and spring). The DIBELS\* screening is used in grades Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> to monitor student progress and evaluate our instruction within the classroom. In addition to DIBELS, multiple assessments will be administered throughout the year, including Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessments, Edgenuity MyPath placement tests, Easy CBM and Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT). We will provide intervention and progress monitoring throughout the year for students below grade level.

(\*Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills)

A leading feature of the Title I Law is the involvement of you, the parents/guardians in your child's education. Meetings are held at least two times a year in each Title I building and we strongly encourage all parents to join and take an active part in their child's education.

### **Title I Teachers are:**

Lynch- Rebecca Thornton and Stacy Wagner  
SRU - Ashley Raynor and Donna Thrush  
Rowe - Karla Johnson

### **Title I Paraprofessionals are:**

Lynch - Patricia Reid